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OUTLOOK FOR TENNESSEE CROPS REMAIN EXCELLENT

After enduring 2 straight years of extreme August heat, Tennessee farmers anticipate record high corn and dark tobacco yields, as well as above average cotton and soybean yields this season. According to the September 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, the yield potential for major fall crops is not only excellent, but better than expected just a month ago. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician, stated, "Based on the results of this survey, Tennessee crops have improved over the August 1 forecast." She added, "The state's major crops appear to have benefitted from favorable growing conditions during August as they all showed yield increases." The September survey collects farmers' expectations of final yields assuming normal weather conditions through harvest and forecasts the following results: **Cotton**, 651 pounds per acre, up 48 pounds from last year; **Corn**, 127 bushels per acre, up 13 bushels from 2000 and a new state record; **Soybeans**, 33 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year and the highest since 1997; and **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, a 50 pound improvement from last month and the highest since 1994. Other tobacco types are forecast at new records: **Type 22**, 2,800 pounds; **Type 23**, 3,200 pounds; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds per acre.

AUGUST SHOWERS AND A GOOD TOP CROP BOOST COTTON PRODUCTION

The State's average cotton yield is forecast at 651 pounds, up 8 pounds from August and 48 pounds above a year ago. If realized, this better than average yield will boost cotton production to 820,000 bales, up 10,000 bales from last month's forecast and the highest production since 1994. One reason for improved prospects is that the two top producing counties, Haywood and Crockett, received timely rains during August and producers are confident that there will be more of a top crop than usual. Bolls are currently opening and defoliation is underway in most areas. The crop was planted in a timely fashion this year and has received good heat units.

TREMENDOUS CORN CROP ANTICIPATED

Harvest is underway and early returns point to a superb, record-breaking crop in Tennessee. The average corn yield is forecast at 127 bushels per acre, 13 bushels better than 2000 and 3 bushels per acre higher than the previous record set in 1992. Corn production is forecast at 72.4 million bushels from 570,000 acres. Even though planting was delayed this year, timely showers this summer along with mild temperatures, especially during pollination, were extremely beneficial. The crop is drying down a little slower than usual but, at this point, it has not been a major concern. Thirteen percent of the crop was harvested by September 2, slightly behind the 5-year average.

A GOOD AUGUST FOR SOYBEANS

Expectations are for a 33 bushel per acre soybean crop, up a bushel from the August forecast and considerably better than the 1999 and 2000 crop seasons which yielded 19 and 25 bushels per acre, respectively. Total production from 1.05 million acres is expected to total 34.7 million bushels, the most since 1998. The pod fill has been reported as good to this point, with 23 percent of the crop shedding leaves by the first week of September. Moisture has been adequate for most of the season since planting, with only a few dry spells in West Tennessee prior to August 1. Middle Tennessee growers reported excellent crop prospects, while West Tennessee growers consider the crop average to above average.

(OVER)

TOBACCO CROPS NOT WITHOUT PROBLEMS BUT STILL BEST SINCE 1994

Overall, tobacco yield prospects have improved since last month despite some major flooding, particularly in Greene County. Burley tobacco production is forecast at 68.0 million pounds from 34,000 acres. The average yield is slated to be 2,000 pounds per acre, the best overall average since 1994 thanks to excellent prospects in Middle Tennessee. Harvest is on schedule and beneficial August rainfall helped the recently topped crop add weight. Some blue mold, stalk rot, and black shank is still affecting the crop, but no more than normal years. A record-yielding dark tobacco crop is now being harvested and housed. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,800 pounds for Type 22; 3,200 pounds for Type 23; and 2,500 pounds for Type 35.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2001, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,500	9,500
Corn for grain	bu.	590	570	114	127	67,260	72,390
Cotton ¹	lb.	565	605	603	651	710	820
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	2,050	2.30	2.10	4,600	4,305
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,500	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,150	1,050	25.0	33.0	28,750	34,650
Tobacco, All	lb.	46.02	41.22	2,085	2,140	95,958	88,230
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.7	6.1	2,760	2,800	21,252	17,080
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.64	.50	3,125	3,200	2,000	1,600
Burley (31)	lb.	37.0	34.0	1,920	2,000	71,040	68,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.68	.62	2,450	2,500	1,666	1,550
Winter Wheat	bu.	380	330	55.0	56.0	20,900	18,480
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	—	---	---	---	10,648,700	9,615,400
Corn for grain	bu.	72,732	69,191	137.1	133.5	9,968,358	9,238,356
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,053.0	14,138.0	632	679	17,188.3	19,992.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,777	40,083	1.95	1.95	71,836	78,075
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,599,800	2,537,300
Soybeans	bu.	72,718	74,137	38.1	38.2	2,769,665	2,833,511
Tobacco, All	lb.	472.43	451.29	2,229	2,268	1,052,998	1,023,730
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	11.80	9.40	2,896	2,765	34,167	25,990
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	4.44	3.60	3,360	3,114	14,920	11,210
Burley (31)	lb.	185.40	174.90	1,957	2,127	362,788	371,973
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.78	3.42	2,901	2,582	10,966	8,830
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,022	31,657	44.6	43.8	1,562,733	1,385,048

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about September 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.